

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG

Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

(with Nursery)

Sunday 10:30 am

(with Nursery)

8:30 am broadcast on 101.9 fm & livestream on facebook at

www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt

10:30 am livestream on Facebook

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Member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Flowers: To the Glory of God & In Loving Memory of...

* Bill Maki

Radio: To the Glory of God...

* from our Messiah family

Livestream: To the Glory of God...

* from our Messiah family

Every Gift, Every Person — Together for Good

Commitment Weekend is nearly here — October 17/18 — and before we arrive at that moment, I want to say something clearly and pastorally: **every gift matters. Every person matters.** There is no size of commitment too small to be significant. There is no form of giving too modest to be meaningful.

Stewardship conversations can sometimes create an unintended hierarchy — as though only large financial gifts “count,” or only certain kinds of service “really matter.” But Scripture tells a different story. Jesus watched people placing large sums into the temple treasury, and then He noticed a widow who dropped in two small coins. He said she had given more than all of them — not because her coins were worth more, but because her heart was fully engaged.

At Messiah, we believe in **full stewardship** — time, talent, and treasure — because God has entrusted all three to us, and God cares about all three. As you prepare for Commitment Weekend, I invite you to reflect on each dimension:

Treasure: What financial commitment feels both generous and faithful for the coming year?

Time: Where can you show up — consistently, joyfully, prayerfully — in the life of this congregation and community?

Talent: What skill, passion, or spiritual gift has God placed within you that can bless this body?

When every person at Messiah brings all three — the resources, the hours, and the gifts God has given — something extraordinary happens. Not because any one of us is remarkable on our own, but because **together**, we become the handiwork Paul describes in Ephesians: a people created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand for us to walk in.

That is what Together for Good means. It is not a slogan. It is a description of who we are at our best — connected, generous, prayerful, and ready to participate in God’s mission.

On October 17/18, we will gather for one of the most meaningful worship moments of our year. Commitment Weekend is not about pressure. It is not about comparison. It is about trust. It is about gratitude. It is about stepping into the good work God is already doing through this congregation — and discovering that God is also doing something good in us.

As we move toward Commitment Weekend, I invite you to watch your mailbox for a special stewardship mailing arriving soon. Inside you'll find your **2027 Estimate of Giving form**, your **2027 Time & Talent form**, and a **Devotional Guide to Biblical Giving** to support your prayerful reflection. This letter is not about pressure — it is simply an invitation to consider how God is calling you to participate in the good work we share. We encourage you to read through the materials, pray over them, and bring your completed forms to worship on **October 17/18**, or submit them to the church office.

I look forward to standing with you, praying with you, and committing with you — **Together for Good**.

Your fellow steward in Christ, *Pastor Steve Solberg, Interim*

P.S. Commitment Weekend is not the end of the journey. It is the beginning. On November 1, we launch The Bible's Big Story, Our Story — a visual, covenant-centered Bible overview between services in Magnuson Hall. And in January, we begin our Spiritual Gifts Discovery series. These next steps will help us deepen our faith, discern our gifts, and connect our lives more fully to God's mission.

#MessiahConnects

Messiah's Story: The Transition Timeline in the Atrium

As part of our transition work, the Transition Team invites you to join them in creating a **Congregational Timeline** in the Atrium — a visual way for us to honestly remember, reflect, and celebrate the story God has been writing at Messiah Lutheran Church. The timeline begins with Messiah's earliest years and stretches forward into the present, marking key moments in our life together.

You are invited to add your own memories to this shared story. Think of a moment in Messiah's life, in the world, or in your own journey of faith that shaped you — a baptism, a confirmation, a mission trip, a pastoral transition, a community event, a season of challenge or renewal. Write it on a card and place it on the timeline. Each addition helps us see more clearly how God has been at work across generations.

This timeline is more than a history project. It is a spiritual practice of **remembering, listening, and discerning**. As we look back together, we learn to recognize God's faithfulness — and we become better prepared to listen for where God is leading us next. Come, add your story, and help us see the whole picture of who we have been, who we are, and who God is calling us to become.

Messiah Calendar

Monday, September 28

10:00 am OWLs Walk
5:30 pm 11-Step Centering Prayer
5:30 pm Messiah Bell Rehearsal
7:00 pm AA

Tuesday, September 29

11:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Centering Prayer
5:15 pm League of Women Voters
5:15 pm Superior Handbells Reh.
6:00 pm Cub Scouts
7:00 pm Male Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 30

5:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 1

10:30 am Koinonia Bible Study
5:00 pm Building & Grounds

Friday, October 2

9:00 am Senior Men's Bible Study

Saturday, October 3

9:00 am Finnish Brass Septet Reh.
5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, October 4

8:00 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
8:30 am Worship-Traditional
10:30 am Worship-Contemporary
1:00 pm Baby Shower



venmo

New QR Code for Venmo at Messiah!

Our new QR code for venmo transactions is up and running. It is on the back of each bulletin and posted near the coffee, chocolate, jam, tea, oil, etc

*Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
@messiahlutheranchurchmq*

In The Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pr. Steve Solberg would like to visit you when you are there. If you are unable to notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

On-Call

Pr. Steve Solberg on call: October 1-31

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our November newsletter is **Monday, Oct. 19, 2026.**

Messiah's Newsletter

September 27, 2026
Volume 108, Issue 10

Articles for
Weekly Announcements
are due by 6:00 pm
each Wednesday

Passages

In Sympathy to:

* Sharon Arntsen & family upon the passing of her husband Gene Arntsen. He passed away on September 3rd & his funeral service was on Sept. 8th.

* Family & friends of Joanne Kingston who passed away on Sept. 14th. Joanne had been residing with her husband Dave, at an assisted living facility near Grand Haven, MI. If you would like Dave's address to send your condolences, please contact Messiah's office.

In Celebration to:

* Ross Larson who married Ingrid Hoenke on August 29th. Ross is the son of Dirk & Gayle Van Osdol and Ingrid is the daughter of Fritz & Gayle Hoenke.

New Member Orientation Coming Soon

Are you new to Messiah, returning after some time away, or simply ready to take a next step in connecting more deeply? A New Member Orientation will be held soon, offering a chance to get to know one another, learn about Messiah's mission and ministries, and explore a friendly introduction to Lutheranism 101.

This gathering is relaxed, conversational, and designed to help you feel at home — with space for questions, stories, and connection.

If you'd like to be included in when the dates and times are finalized, please contact the church office to add your name to the list.

Upcoming Events in October

Oct 3 5:45 pm Blessing of the Pets

Oct 4 8:45 am worship includes music from the Finnish Brass Septet

Oct 7 Community Meal at 6:00 pm. Breakfast for dinner!

Oct 17 Load boxes for LWR onto a semi truck from 10:00-11:00 am

Oct 17/18 Commitment Weekend!

Oct 21 Council meeting at 6:00 pm

Oct 25 Reformation Sunday & Youth get confirmed

Preaching Schedule

Sept. 27 Pr. Steve Solberg

Oct. 3 (Sat.) Dave Horn with Steve Solberg presiding during communion

Oct. 4 (Sun.) Dave Horn with Christine Thomas-Echelbarger presiding during communion

Oct. 10/11 Pr. Steve Solberg

Oct. 17/18 Pr. Steve Solberg

Oct. 24/25 Pr. Sharolyn Swenson

Messiah's Birthdays - October

Thursday 1	Cheryl Anderegg, Linda Savage, Pat Vacilek
Friday 2	Shane Parks, Paul Wainio
Saturday 3	Sylvie Theys, Sarah Zeller
Sunday 4	Joan Tasson
Monday 5	Patty Ryan, Esme Ulland-Joy
Tuesday 6	Al Edgar, Candace LeDuc
Wednesday 7	Lois Raikko
Thursday 8	Dave Echelbarger, Jackie Greising, Milt Soderberg
Friday 9	Carol Cappuccio, Carol Ontto, Craig Teed
Saturday 10	No birthdays
Sunday 11	Tanya Jennings
Monday 12	No birthdays
Tuesday 13	Erynn Messana, Tom Moyle, Brianna Weir
Wednesday 14	No birthdays
Thursday 15	No birthdays
Friday 16	Madelyn Luty
Saturday 17	Cathy Winkler
Sunday 18	No birthdays
Monday 19	Jaime Aho, Philip Andersen
Tuesday 20	Maija Maki-Warne, Diana Peterson
Wednesday 21	Deb Abraham, Cecelia Fuller, Cindy Kotila, Todd Leigh, Joe MacPhee, Barb Maszlewski, Cheryl Mayer, Joan Myefski, Ron Tervo
Thursday 22	Sandy MacPhee
Friday 23	Anna Wild
Saturday 24	No birthdays
Sunday 25	Aubrey Muscoe
Monday 26	Sabrina Taube
Tuesday 27	Jim Lahti

Wednesday 28 No birthdays
 Thursday 29 Jon Ruuska, Mya Skaw
 Friday 30 Michelle Sellers
 Saturday 31 Karen Kimar-Johnson

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in October:

Gus & Anne Rydholm	October 2
Kim & Barb Salmela	October 4
Fred & Jeanne Groos	October 8
Ruth Robb & Peggy Kapfhamer	October 8
Bob & Donna Marlor	October 8
Tom & Sara Moyle	October 8
Mike & Jaime Davis	October 9
Gary & Tina Peterson	October 25
Dave & Nancy Skoog	October 28
Dale & Kim Alanko	October 30
Paul Marin & Betsy Little	October 30

The New Free Store Donations

The New Free Store is in need of the items listed below. There is a collection bin in our narthex at Messiah for The New Free Store.

October - Toilet Paper [4 or 6 rolls/pack]

November - Dental floss, toothpaste & toothbrushes (child & adult)

Thank you!

Dear Members of Messiah, Thank you for the lovely and generous gift in recognition of our leadership in Sunday School last year. We have been enjoying the brightly colored flowers we purchased from Nagelkirks using the gift card we received from you. We think happy thoughts of you each time we see them. It is a great joy to teach Sunday School and we look forward to teaching once again, this year. Once more, thank you for the thoughtful gift. Yours in Christ, *Christine & Dave*

Thank you!

Dear Messiah, Thank you so much for your exceedingly generous scholarship to Fortune Lake. I want to express my gratitude from the bottom of my heart. I had a lot of fun at camp and hope to be able to go next year. I deeply appreciate your assistance in helping me go to camp. At Fortune Lake I made memories I will cherish forever. From the friends, to the cabins, to the lake. I will never forget the wonderful times I had at Fortune Lake. I became so much stronger in my belief & faith. It was an incredible highlight to my year. Sincerely, *Violet R.*

Community Meal - October 7

Our next community meal will be on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 pm in Magnuson Hall. The meal will be breakfast for dinner! A vegetarian option will be available. Please join us for a delicious meal on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 pm. We look forward to it!

Sunday School

Sunday School is underway! Join us each week at 10:30am in rooms 201 & 202. Registration is always open and available on our website. October's focus is Noah's Ark! If you would like a fall schedule, please email Emma at Emma@messiahlutheranmq.org.

Event for Sunday School Children

November 20th: Pool night at the YMCA in Marquette. Forthcoming details will be posted on the Sunday School board in the atrium!

LWR InGathering at Messiah

Messiah will have their Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Truck Loading day on Saturday, October 17th at 10:00 am. The truck will be here for one hour only.

If your Circle/Quilting group has boxes of kits/quilts to send, please record the following information for the office and call the numbers in by 10/15:

1. Number of quilts and/or kits your Circle/Quilting group has made.
2. Number of boxes that your quilts and/or kits are in.

Thank you!

Brookridge Worship - October 28

Messiah has a worship service at Brookridge Heights on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Our next worship at Brookridge will be on Wednesday, October 28th at 1:30 pm. Please join us for this worship service if you are able.

Calling All Kids in 6th -12th Grade!!

We need help from you!

We would love your help loading boxes on a semi truck for Lutheran World Relief. We invite any adults & kids ranging in school grade 6-12 to help us load all of our boxes on the semi truck on Saturday, Oct 17th at 10:00 am. We need a lot of young, strong people to help for this to be a success. Please let the office know if you are willing to help. We only ask for

one hour of your time. Thank you! Jen Dodge

Senior Men's Ministry

Messiah's Senior Men's Ministry is meeting every Friday at 9:00 am in room #202. We meet for about an hour. Please join us on Fridays!

Lectionary Readings - October 2026

October 4

First Reading
Gospel

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

First Reading
Gospel

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

First Reading
Gospel

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

First Reading
Gospel

Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 8:31-36

Transitions Dwelling in the Word — Genesis 8

On September 27, our Faith Ventures worship gathering centered on **Dwelling in the Word** with Genesis 8 — the quiet, patient story of Noah waiting for God's new beginning. We listened together as the dove went out, returned, and went out again, reminding us that discernment often comes slowly, gently, and in God's timing rather than our own.

Around our tables, we reflected on what it means to wait faithfully: to watch for signs of hope, to trust God's work beneath the surface, and to recognize that new chapters often begin long before we see dry ground. In a season of transition, Genesis 8 offered us a steadying word — that God remembers, God restores, and God leads us forward step by step.

As Faith Ventures continues this fall, we invite the congregation to hold this story close: **God's future emerges through listening, patience, and shared discernment.** May we keep watching together for the olive leaves God is placing in our hands.

Thank You!

Dear Messiah, I want to thank you for the extremely generous scholarship to Fortune Lake. I had an awesome time. I made new friends and learned more about myself and my faith. It was a highlight of my summer and I am so grateful for the opportunity to go. - - - *John R.*

Council Highlights

Greetings to our Messiah family from your Church Council. The council meets the third Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 pm in room 202. Meetings are open to all congregation members.

I apologize for the August Highlights not being published in the September Messenger. That is my fault; I forgot to hit "Send"! Copies were available at services the first two weekends in September, and it is posted in the September 16 e-Newsletter. Copies are available in the office, on the counter immediately inside the door.

Action Taken

- Received reports from Pastor Solberg and various Teams and Committees.

-Finance Committee: Mike Hill asks that any budget requests from the various Teams or Committees be received by him no later than November 1 in order to be considered for the 2027 budget.

-The Buildings & Grounds Team presented two priority items: PRIORITY #1. An independent audit of handicapped parking spaces was conducted, and some necessary changes were identified which require coordination with the City. A team member has volunteered to undertake this. PRIORITY #2: The parking lot needs repaving. A quote was received which is good into Spring, 2027. The Council will revisit this in the near future.

- Review of paid staff job descriptions is underway. Council members will work with staff to collaboratively flesh out the details of their duties and revise the job descriptions. This will not eliminate the future responsibility of the Personnel Committee.

- Elevator Upgrades: A special congregational meeting was held on September 20 to vote on the funding of required elevator upgrades. Unfortunately, a quorum (50 congregation members) was not present and so no decision could be made. The members present voted to continue the meeting at 10:00 am on Sunday, September 27, immediately before the Faith Ventures service in Magnuson Hall. Informational handouts are available in the office.

To recap: the total for the proposal from TKE (our elevator contractor), which the council recommends approving, is \$124,599 – \$107,099 for the modernization and required code compliance work, plus \$17,500 for the recommended power unit upgrade. Additional electrician costs are estimated by TKE at \$5,000 to \$10,000 (the council recommends we contract the electrical work separately, thus saving TKE's subcontracting fee of 10%). This proposal is good through the end of this month, after which costs may well increase! A down payment of roughly \$55,000 by the end of September would keep the current promised price for upgrades: that amount currently is available in the approved 2026 budget's Capital Improvement funds.

Answers to questions asked in the 9/20 meeting include: 1) We have an exclusive contract with TKE that runs through 2028. Other elevator contractors

are available, but asking for bids when we already have a contract would not look good. 2) Endowment funds could be used, but they are limited to 50% of the total disbursed for the year. In 2026 approximately \$20,000 was disbursed; assuming 2027 is the same, we would only have \$10,000 for this work. 3) The daycare does use the elevator, but asking them to contribute is not reasonable. We are their landlord, and they leased the space expecting the building to function properly. Also, while they do use the elevator, it's only as a convenience – they prepare meals in the kitchen but serve them in their classrooms, and so they could continue to operate without an elevator. 4) We will need to finance the remainder of the project by fund-raising. Please know that I have received verbal commitments from two congregation members to sizeable donations towards the project. \$135,000 is a lot of money, but we will only need to raise far less than half of that amount. 5) Council members will be present at 9:00 am on 9/27 to answer questions before the meeting reconvenes.

- The council met in closed session to review a letter from Dr. Scott Beaulier, a candidate in 2025 for NMU President. A copy was forwarded to Andrew Plocher.

Transition Team

On Sunday, September 27, the team will be hosting a Faith Ventures service in Magnuson Hall (immediately following the reconvened special congregational meeting at 10:00 am). This single service replaces the three regular services for that weekend. We anticipate the full event to take 1.5 – 2 hours. The schedule is:

- A service with songs, readings, prayer and communion.
- A continental brunch. After brunch, Emma O. will lead the children to Sunday School.
- A conversation at individual tables. This is your opportunity to offer your thoughts on where you are in your faith journey, how do you see Messiah's future evolving, etc. A Transition Team or Council member will be present at each table to act as "scribe" for the conversations. We are not attempting to provide answers; rather, we are thoughtfully listening to the congregation.

To provoke thought and facilitate questions, a timeline of Messiah's history will be set up in the Atrium. We encourage you to arrive early to reflect on the timeline, which I personally find fascinating.

Closing Blessing

Peace be with you all, *Mark Petrie, Council President*

You're Invited – The Bible's Big Story, Our Story

This November and December, you are warmly invited to join a congregation-wide Bible overview called *The Bible's Big Story, Our Story*. Designed for confirmands through adults, this study offers a clear, visual, and accessible way to understand the grand sweep of Scripture — from Creation to New Creation, from Genesis to Revelation, from promise to fulfillment.

No prior Bible knowledge needed! Whether you are new to the Bible or have studied it for decades, this overview will help you see how the whole story fits together and how your own story fits within God's.

Why We're Offering This Study

Our stewardship season reminds us that God connects us — to faith, to one another, and to the world God loves. Scripture is one of the primary ways God forms those connections. When we learn the Bible's big story, we begin to see God's work more clearly in our lives and in our congregation.

This course is not a deep-dive commentary on any single book. It's rather a view of the biblical story from 30,000 feet. It gives us the big picture — the story that holds all the smaller stories together. It is a way to deepen our faith connections as we move from Commitment Weekend into Advent.

What the Study Includes

Along with our Bibles, we will be using **The Bible's Big Story, Our Story** materials authored by Dr. Harry Wendt of Crossways International. The student packet includes:

- A full-color **Student Manual** with visual timelines and illustrations
- A **Student Workbook** with reflection questions and activities
- A fold-out **Biblical Timeline** nearly three feet long

These tools help participants see Scripture as one unified narrative — not a collection of disconnected books. The visual approach makes the story memorable and engaging for all ages.

Do I Need the Book?

No — **you can fully participate without purchasing the book**. But if you would like the visual timeline and workbook to reinforce what you're learning, the church office will gladly order one for you. Cost per book is \$12.

Schedule

Sundays between services November 2 through December 20, from 9:45 to 10:15 am in Magnuson Hall. Each session stands alone — come when you can.

Participate from Home — Live Stream Option

For those who cannot be physically present, we will also offer this study **via live-stream**, most likely through Zoom. This allows homebound members, winter travelers, and those with schedule or mobility limitations to join the conversation in real time.

Details and the link will be shared in the weekly email, on the website, and

in the bulletin. Whether you join in person or online, you will be part of the same shared learning experience.

Join Us

If you have ever opened your Bible and felt unsure where to begin, this study is for you. If you want to understand Scripture more clearly, this study is for you. If you want to grow in faith alongside your congregation, this study is for you.

Come learn, ask questions, and grow with your congregation as we explore God's story together.

Together for Good. #MessiahConnects

How This Course Connects to Our Stewardship Season

Our fall theme, *Together for Good*, reminds us that God gathers us, shapes us, and sends us. This Bible overview strengthens each movement:

- **DOWN** — We see how God comes to us in love throughout the whole biblical story.
- **IN** — We discover the gifts God entrusts to His people across generations.
- **OUT** — We learn how God sends His people into the world with hope, justice, and compassion.

And in a season of transition, learning Scripture together becomes a shared anchor — a way to deepen our identity and strengthen our unity.

October Superior Conference Youth Event (Grades 6–12)

Our next event for **students in grades 6–12** is coming soon — and we're excited to gather again as a wider community of faith in the Superior Conference of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

- **Saturday, October 17 1:30 – 4:00 pm – Hayes Corn Maze (near Rock, MI)**
- **Current Travel Plans: Meet at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee by 1:30 pm**
- **RSVP with the church office.**

This is our **Grand Get-Together at Hayes Corn Maze**, a chance for youth to enjoy fall activities, build friendships, and experience the joy of being part of a larger church family. These events help our youth see that their faith journey is not limited to one congregation — they belong to a wider community of peers, mentors, and leaders across the Upper Peninsula.

All youth in **grades 6–12** — whether active in confirmation, youth group, or simply looking for connection — are warmly invited. Friends are welcome.

The full 2026-2027 calendar of events are available from the church office, including the next up:

- **Friendsgiving & Service Event — November 22**
- **Youth Lock-In at Messiah — December 11-12**

(continued on page 16)

**To view our calendar,
updated daily, please go to
messiahlutheranmq.org**

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Parents, please mark your calendars and encourage your youth to participate. These gatherings help our students grow in faith, build friendships, and experience the joy of being part of the wider church.

NOTE: *If you haven't yet turned in your **Parent Consent Form**, please do so.*

ALSO: *The registration deadlines for the ELCA National Youth Gathering (grades 9-12, June 28 – July 2 in Minneapolis for Grades 9-12) is October 24 AND for Youth Quake (grades 6-12, February 11-14 in Wisconsin Dells) is November 7.*

Together for Good. #MessiahConnects

A Daily Guide for October

October 1 – Welcome the Month Say a quiet blessing over October. Open your hands and your heart to what God will grow.

October 2 – Notice Small Harvests Name one small thing that has ripened in your life lately — a habit, a relationship, a hope.

October 3 – Pray for Caregivers Lift up those who tend others with patience and love. Ask God to strengthen their spirits.

October 4 – Practice Sabbath Moments Pause for five minutes today. Breathe deeply. Let stillness be your prayer.

October 5 – Celebrate a Mentor Think of someone who shaped your faith. Offer thanks for their presence in your story.

October 6 – Bless Your Work Whatever your work looks like today, say: “God, root this labor in love.”

October 7 – Pray for Peacemakers Hold in prayer those who work quietly for reconciliation — in homes, schools, communities, and the world.

October 8 – Notice Autumn Light Watch how the light shifts. Let its gentleness remind you of God's steady presence.

October 9 – Practice Generosity Give something small today — time, kindness, patience, attention.

October 10 – Pray for Youth Lift up our 6th–12th graders gathering today. Ask God to bless their friendships and faith.

October 11 – Remember Our Story Visit the timeline in the Atrium — or imagine it if you cannot be there. Recall a moment in Messiah's story, your own story, or the world's story that shaped your faith, perhaps adding it to the timeline. Offer it to God with gratitude.

October 12 – Pray for those in Transition Hold in prayer anyone facing change — new jobs, new homes, new seasons.

October 13 – Pray for the Transition Team As the team meets today with other teams, pray for wisdom, clarity, courage, and joy. Ask God to guide

their listening, their learning, and their leadership as they help us understand our past and discern our future.

October 14 – Light a Candle for Hope As the days shorten, light a candle and pray: “God, kindle hope in me.”

October 15 – Pray for Teachers Hold educators in prayer — their creativity, their endurance, their calling.

October 16 – Declutter One Thing Clear one small space — a drawer, a desk, a corner. Ask God to make space in you, too.

October 17 – Celebrate Community Think of someone at church who helps you feel connected. Offer thanks for them.

October 18 – Practice Listening Listen deeply to someone today — without rushing, fixing, or judging.

October 19 – Pray for the Church Lift up Messiah Lutheran — its ministries, leaders, volunteers, and worshipers.

October 20 – Wait with Noah Read a few verses from Genesis 8. Sit with Noah’s waiting — the dove going out, returning, and going out again. Pray: “God, teach us to wait with hope. Lead us gently into your future.”

October 21 – Pray for Our Church Council As the Church Council meets today, pray for clarity, courage, unity, and joy. Ask God to guide their discernment and strengthen their leadership as they serve Messiah’s mission.

October 22 – Notice God’s Creativity Find one thing today that reveals God’s imagination — color, texture, sound, story.

October 23 – Practice Kindness Offer one intentional kindness today. Let it be small, sincere, and quiet.

October 24 – Remember Your Baptism Touch water today. Remember you are beloved, claimed, and called.

October 25 – Pray for Our Confirmands As they affirm their baptism today, pray: “God, guide them, bless them, and make them bold in faith.”

October 26 – Share a Sacred Meal Eat with intention — with someone else or in quiet presence. Taste. Savor. Give thanks.

October 27 – Seek Wisdom Ask a question you’ve been holding. Listen for God’s answer in Scripture, silence, or conversation.

October 28 – Practice Hope Say: “God, help me hope for what I cannot yet see.”

October 29 – Walk with Awareness Take a short walk. Let each step be a prayer of presence.

October 30 – Pray for the World Lift up places of conflict, sorrow, and need. Ask God to bring peace and healing.

October 31 – A Blessing for the Journey Say: “God of every season, thank you for this month. Go with me into what comes next.”

What is Centering Prayer?

Centering prayer is a form of silent prayer that emphasizes resting in God's presence through silence & a sacred word. It involves finding a quiet space, sitting comfortably, and focusing on a chosen word to help maintain stillness and let go of thoughts. The goal is to cultivate a deeper relationship with God through stillness and receptivity. Several members of Messiah lead groups that practice this form of prayer during the week as a piece of their faith life.

Centering Prayer

Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer are two distinct prayer forms. Lectio Divina is a reading, reflecting, responding and resting in the word of God that helps one grow in relationship with God. Centering Prayer is a method of prayer in which we consent to rest in God's presence. It prepares us to receive the gift of contemplation.

Lectio Divina often follows Centering Prayer. In the daily group I attend we use scripture passages, poems or passages from books on Centering Prayer. After a passage is read twice, there can be some extended silence for each person to savor what he or she has heard, particularly noting whether any word or phrase became a special focus of attention. Members are invited, if they so desire, to share out loud the word or phrase that struck them. This is done without discussion. Then a different person from the group would read the passage again with a pause for silence. Different emphases might be suggested after each reading: What does this passage call me to do? The prayer is then concluded with the Our Father, or a version of the Our Father or in a different language of the prayer.

Whether one prays individually or in a group, Lectio Divina is a flexible and easy way to pray. One first listens, notes what is given and responds in a way one is directed by the Holy Spirit. I found I very much learned from the different perspectives of the group. Sometimes when a person would say out loud the word that struck them, I would think I never heard that word read. My tiny world started to get larger hearing others pray.

The Four Core Steps

The practice traditionally follows four distinct movements:

- ◎ Lectio (Read): Choose a short Bible passage (10 to 15 verses). Read it slowly and out loud several times. Listen for a specific word or phrase that catches your attention without rushing.
- ◎ Meditatio (Meditate): Ponder the word or phrase that stood out. Repeat it quietly. Ask yourself how this text connects to your current life, challenges, or thoughts.
- ◎ Oratio (Prayer): Respond directly to God in conversation. Express your honest feelings, worries, gratitude, or requests that came up during your reflection.
- ◎ Contemplatio (Contemplation): Rest quietly in God's presence. Let go of

your own words and simply enjoy being loved and guided by God.

If you would be interested in knowing more about this practice, please feel free to contact me. When I first started Centering Prayer, I found the sitting the most difficult and the Lectio Divina an easier place to sit quietly in God's presence. Today, both practices along with the Welcoming Prayer, take me where I need to go. - - - Laura Petrie

Fair Trade Market

Mark your calendars! Messiah's Fair Trade Market will be happening on Nov. 21 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (open to the public) and Nov. 22 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. How can you be involved? Glad you asked!

- 1) Be a cashier on Saturday! Cashier slots range from 1 to 4 hours. Basic math and organizational skills are helpful.
- 2) Be a wrapper on Saturday! Slots range from 1 to 4 hours. Customers need delicate items wrapped.
- 3) Post flyers! This occurs 2-3 weeks prior, throughout Marquette County.
- 4) Packaging materials! Please donate gently used packaging materials to the church office: bubble wrap, tissue paper, gift bags, plastic shopping bags, brown wrapping paper.
- 5) Bake sale! Plan to bake delicious items to be available for our customers to purchase. Drop-off times for baked goods will be in the November newsletter. Please contact the church office if you desire to volunteer.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Those who seek help from our financial assistance program; Sarah Bleckiner; the Helsel family; Maria; the family and friends of Joanne Kingston who passed away on September 14; Karen Gill; Jan Julian; Lynne; Paul Carstens; Milt Soderberg; Larry & Betty Brunton; Ernie Johnson; Peggy Letvenow; Jacelyn (pronounced Jack Lynn) Marra; Gloria Byrnes (pronounced Burns); Cassidy Eckloff; Sherry Waters; Renee Goyen; Stuart Harslah; Lisa Balko; Roger; Karen Sundeen; Linda Ruohoniemi; Charlie Blake; Sam Elder; Doug Morton; Jackie Greising; Al Ortlieb; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John & Rose Collins; Katie; Mary Ruman; Jeremy; Sally Olson; Carol Bell; Dorothy; Karen; Don Hillegas; Grant; Kai Dolan; Samantha; Ted; Bruce Lindberg;; Jamie; Donna; Brian; Ben; Evelyn; Karen Eldevick; Shannon; Marshall Lovan Magnuson; Peter; Shawn; Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Sierra; Charlene Avery

You may call the office if you would like a person listed in the prayers. Please obtain permission from the person to list his/her name. We also appreciate updates as to how people listed are progressing. Thank you!

Blessing of the Pets - Saturday, Oct. 3rd, 5:45pm

All members are welcome to bring their pets for a special blessing following the 5:00 service on Saturday, October 3rd, at approximately 5:45 pm. Pets are welcome to attend the 5:00 service, or you may bring your pet at 5:45 pm and meet outside the main doors or in the Atrium. Thank you!

- - - *Worship Planning Team*

Special Musical Guests - October 4, 8:30 am Worship

On Sunday, October 4th, we will welcome to Messiah special musical guests, Ameriikan Poijat, a Finnish style brass septet to play at the 8:30 service - including a prelude, Special Music, hymns, and a postlude. Over the years they have received the generous support of John & Pauline Kiltinen and will be performing in their memory. Thank you! *Worship Planning Team*

Thank You!

Thank you so much Messiah! Thank you Messiah for my scholarship to Fortune Lake! This was an amazing camp & I am so happy that I got a scholarship to this cam. Fortune Lake was so fun, I had an amazing time and hope I have time to go next year. At this camp I learned more about God and believing in myself. I loved camp because I made friends, sang songs and had fun. I am so thankful that you gave me a scholarship. Thank you Messiah! Sincerely, Stella R.

Bowls for a Cause

Turned Wooden Bowls are available for a donation to the community assistance fund. They are located next to the homemade jams in the atrium. All bowls are homemade and are finished with a food safe finish. If you have questions about the bowls they can be directed to Paul Carstens at pcarsten@alumni.nmu.edu.

Messiah's Mitten Box

With the cooler, fall weather, it is time to start filling the Mitten box. There is yarn available under the Welcome Table. I would encourage our knitters and crocheters to use a wool or wool blend for mittens so they are warmer. I will add wool yarn to the stash of yarn. Please label 100% wool items as such, so they are washed properly and do not shrink. The items will be distributed in late November/early December to our local charities who help those in need. Any questions, contact Kate Sromalski at 906 226 6682. Thank you!

Knotty Knitters

The Knotty Knitters will continue to meet at Messiah on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month. The knitters typically meet in Magnuson Hall but occasionally meet in the atrium. They do join one another for lunch at Vangos prior to coming to Messiah. Please contact Shelly Johnson or Messiah's office for more information.

Marquette County CROP Hunger Walk – October 4 Virtual

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our community who need them – and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

The 2026 CROP Hunger Walk will be virtual (no in-person scheduled event).

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

To register, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/marquettemi. Donation envelopes are available on the Welcome Table. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP. 75% of the funds raised goes to Church World Service and 25% of the funds raised will be split between Feeding America (sponsored by Silver Creek Church) and the NMU Food Bank.

Return your donation envelopes by October 9 to the church office. We will notify Crystal Swanson to pick them up.

For Women of the ELCA

Dear Sisters in Christ, I am letting you know that I have been unable to find a congregation within our conference 8 that will host a Fall gathering. Keeping this in mind, should we only have a Spring meeting? Maybe this type of gathering has outlived its purpose. Should we look at something different to bring our conference 8 churches together? I am open to suggestions.

I have found while calling churches, that many do not meet as a WELCA group, but continue on with Bible studies, community activities and service within their church. As we are all aware we have aging churches and only so many people to serve on the various committees. I am looking for suggestions at how we can help our younger congregation members become involved without adding additional work to their already busy lives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mi-johnso@nmu.edu or my cell phone is 906 360-8226.

Thank you and God bless, *Michelle Johnson*

Thank you!

Dear Messiah, Thanks for the scholarship for Fortune Lake. It was so fun. The food was good. The lake was awesome and I loved the games. I hope I can go next year. And I forgot to mention devos which were great. - Luke R.

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Every Monday at 10:00 am the OWLs walk at the Lower Harbor Park. After their walk, they go to Provisions for coffee. They walk at different rates and all are welcome. If you're not interested in walking, join them for coffee. Questions? Please contact Betsy or the church office.

Confirmation Ministry Update

Confirmation Gatherings

On September 20, our 7th–9th grade confirmands joined peers from across the Superior Conference for an evening of worship, learning, and connection.

We began to focus on this year's confirmation theme – *Live with Them Among God's Faithful People* – how beginning in baptism God forms us as a community of disciples. We used Scripture, shared activities, and small-group conversations to help students see that faith is not just an individual journey but a communal one. Students met peers from neighboring congregations, reflected on the great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1-12), and the declaration that we are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27).

It was a strong start to our conference-wide rhythm for the year — relational, energetic, and grounded in Scripture.

This month, our next **Conference 8 Confirmation Gathering** will take place **Saturday, October 10, from 9 am to Noon, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Ishpeming**, and we'll touch into the First Article of Luther's Small Catechism as we focus on Care for Others and the World God Made.

NOTE: *If you haven't yet turned in your Parent Consent Form, please do so.*

And There's More...

Confirmands and their parents are also encouraged to prepare to join Sunday mornings for **"The Bible's Big Story, Our Story" beginning November 1** (see details elsewhere in this newsletter).

As we begin a new confirmation year, we're reminded that **faith formation starts with community, founded in regular worship participation**. Before students open a Bible or a catechism, they need to know they belong—to one another, to their congregation, and to the wider church across our conference and beyond.

Confirmation Sunday

And as we look ahead, we invite the whole congregation to surround our dear confirmands who complete their confirmation journey with prayer and presence as they make their **Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, October 25, at the 10:30 AM worship service**. This milestone is not only their commitment — it is our commitment as a congregation to continue walking with them, encouraging them, and helping them discover their place in the body of Christ. In this moment, they will claim for themselves the promises first spoken at their baptism, and we will promise again to support them in their life in Christ. Your presence matters. Your prayers matter. Your welcome matters. Together, we celebrate what God is doing in their lives and in our shared life of faith — *Together for Good* and **#MessiahConnects**.

Community Meal Cook Team

We are in need of one more cook team to make our community meal program a success. Have you ever considered doing this? Do you have questions regarding our community meals? If so, please do not hesitate to inquire in the office. You can cook with a friend or two or you and your spouse/partner could cook... the options are endless. Please consider participating in this ministry!

#Messiah Connects with Colombia

The roots of our Companionship with Colombia go back to 1999 when Pastor Dave Van Kley was serving Custer Lutheran Fellowship in Custer, South Dakota. That church already had a relationship with a congregation in Bogota and Pastor Dave travelled there several times with groups from Custer.

When he became Messiah's pastor in 2008, Pr. Dave brought his enthusiasm for Colombia with him. In 2010, Pastor Natanael Lizarazo was invited to preach at Messiah, and more conversations led to the first groups from Messiah visiting our Lutheran counterparts. A new mission was being formed, Luz Y Vida, (Light and Life), they became Messiah's companion congregation.

Several images remain: Fred Maynard and Dave Luoma dancing with the elderly at the mission, Paige Gilbert working on crafts at Luz Y Vida, Tristan Luoma, Danny Stone and Tanner Delpier clinging to the roof of a pick-up truck as they rode to a village ravaged by an earthquake, Inga Banitt making friends with the women of Caracoli, and the kids looking up at Stephen Luty, astonished by his height! Many other memories have been added in the years since.

We recently received Pr. Katie Larson, ELCA missionary we are supporting in Colombia. She preached at Messiah and brought us up to date on conditions there. We pray our relationship with the IELCO (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia) will continue to thrive and grow!

Excerpts from "The Roots of Messiah's Relationship with Luz Y Vida" by Pastor Dave Van Kley – the entire document is available on Messiah's website or from members of the Global Mission Committee. Mary Lou Blomquist

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

Caregiver Support Groups Marquette – Oct. 14, 2:00 pm Are you feeling isolated or burned out as a caregiver? Do you experience frustration or guilt and need a safe place to process? Join us for opportunities to share your feelings, develop friendships, receive emotional support, and to learn about available community resources. Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Office, 914 W. Baraga Ave. (continued on next page)

Telephone Based Caregiver Support Group: Oct. 21, 2:00 pm. Are you feeling isolated or burned out as a caregiver? Do you experience frustration or guilt and need a safe place to process? Join us for our new **phone-based** support group. For family, friends, and other caregivers who are caring for a person with a chronic illness or disability. This group is a great opportunity for caregivers who are unable to leave the person they are caring for. Please call Jamie Barbieri at 906.225.7760.

Drop-in Grief Support: Marquette – 10/28/26 4:00 p.m. Grief doesn't follow a schedule - and neither do we. Our drop-in grief support group offers a safe, welcoming space for anyone navigating the loss of a loved one. Join us to share, listen, or simply be among others who understand. No registration required. Come as you are when you need it most. Takes place on the 4th Wednesday of every month. No registration or affiliation to our hospice is required. 914 W. Baraga Ave. Marquette.

Volunteer Training - Are you interested in becoming a hospice volunteer? Join us to learn more about the meaningful ways you can support patients, families, and our hospice team. Whether you're interested in spending time with patients, helping with special projects, providing companionship, or supporting our staff behind the scenes, there's a place for you! **Registration is required.** Please call 906.225.7760 or email Volunteers@lakesuperiorhospice.org At Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Office. 914 W. Baraga Avenue. 10/14/26 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm

LIVE & LEARN at Mill Creek Clubhouse - *Come See What Live & Learn Is All About!* Wednesday, October 28 from 2:00–3:00 pm at Mill Creek Clubhouse, 1728 Windstone Dr. in Marquette.

Join us for our October Live & Learn Welcome Event — a free, casual gathering for older adults and anyone interested in learning, connecting, and exploring topics that matter to them.

This first gathering is a chance to:

- Meet your host, Jamie Barbieri, Community Outreach Director at Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice
- Learn more about what Live & Learn will offer
- Share **topics you'd like to see presented** at future gatherings
- Enjoy a **root beer float** while we visit and brainstorm ideas! Free & open to the public!

Bring your ideas, your curiosity, or just come enjoy a root beer float and see what Live & Learn is all about. Call 906.225.7760 and ask for Jamie for more information.

Fall Fest and Quilt Auction – October 3

Come to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls on Saturday, October 3rd for continental breakfast, raffle baskets, the Country Store, and the premier event: the LIVE Quilt Auction! Everything kicks off at 9:30 am CEN-

TRAL, with the auction beginning promptly at 11:00 am. And, as always, if you can't make it in-person, be sure to participate in our VIRTUAL Auction, which runs September 23 – October 3.

Our Sisters of the Cloth have been busily sorting all of the beautiful quilts that have come in for Fall Fest 2026, some of which they've made, and others donated by quilters throughout our region. THANK YOU ALL.

Visit <http://fortunelake.org/make-an-impact/annual-fall-fest> for more information. We hope to see you all at Fortune Lake on October 3 for what promises to be a beautiful day of raising funds to support the ministry of Fortune Lake!

Volunteers Needed at Meals on Wheels & at Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly

Carol Steinhuis, a member of Messiah and the Transition Team writes: "I believe we are put into this world to help each other. I volunteer for both Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly and Meals on Wheels. Both organizations need some help. I value both organizations and have found that my work with them has been very rewarding"

"Several people are ill/have moved, and Meals drivers are needed, both here in Marquette and in Gwinn. This involves picking up meals from either Lost Creek (near Red Lobster) or the kitchen in Gwinn, and delivering a route, generally to 20 or so people. I volunteer for this and donate my mileage, but you can be paid and/or have mileage paid. Due to the increase in gas costs and shortage of drivers, we are currently delivering only 3 days a week, providing frozen meals for the other days. Most routes go from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm or so, returning to the kitchens. ANY VOLUNTEER TIME, one day a week or as a backup, would be most helpful. It's possible there is a route in your own neighborhood! If you would like more information, feel free to call me at 906 458-5408 and leave a message. I don't answer numbers I don't know but would call you back and give you more information or you can call Gretchen from Meals on Wheels at 906 228-6522 ext. 303."

The other organization that needs help now is Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly. Often, seniors in town need rides to medical appointments. The cheapest taxi fare is \$40 round trip. Door to Door MarqTran requires a lot of advance notice and gives priority to kidney dialysis patients. There is often a need for 5-10 rides a week. Ruth Robb and I both do this. Little Brothers posts an email list each week of who needs a ride, when and where, and we call the office and let them know what we are able to do. Even a single ride now and then helps! Occasionally, rides are needed from Gwinn. I've met some interesting people and made some nice friends this way. If you would like to know more or can help, call Tena at the Little Brothers office, 906 273 5575 ext. 2005."

October 2026 Worship Volunteers

Saturday, October 3 – 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Karen Kimar-Johnson

Communion Assistant 1 Barb Salmela

Sunday, October 4 – 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1 Mary Lou Blomquist

Ushers 2 Bruce Robertson, Sam Elder

Communion Assts 4 Beth Krznarich, Judy Quirk, Dave Blomquist,

Greeters 2 Al and Gail Edgar

Sunday, October 4 – 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1 Mark Paulsen

Ushers 2 Fred and Jeanne Groos

Communion Assts 4

Greeters 2

Projection Technician 1

Saturday, October 10 – 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Kotila

Communion Asst 1

Sunday, October 11 – 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Harkness

Reader 1 Fred Maynard

Ushers 2

Communion Assts 4 Judy Quirk

Greeters 2 Chris Harkness

Sunday, October 11 – 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1 Nancy Hamlin

Ushers 2 Amy Diedrich, Paula Diedrich

Communion Assts 4

Greeters 2

Projection Technician 1 Abby LaForest

Saturday, October 17 – Commitment Weekend – 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell

Communion Asst 1

Sunday, October 18 – Commitment Weekend – 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1	Brenda Blett
Reader 1	Chris Harkness
Ushers 2	Joe and Chris Harkness
Communion Assts 4	Beth Krznarich,
Greeters 2	Penny Streeter, Sherry Labbe

Sunday, October 18 – Commitment Weekend – 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1	
Reader 1	Jeanne Groos
Ushers 2	Jill Luoma,
Communion Assts 4	
Greeters 2	
Projection Technician 1	

Saturday, October 24 – 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1	
Communion Asst 1	Julie Blemberg

Sunday, October 25 – 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1	
Reader 1	Brenda Blett
Ushers 2	
Communion Assts 4	Judy Quirk,
Greeters 2	

Sunday, October 25 – 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1	
Reader 1	Laurel Kniskern
Ushers 2	Amy Diedrich, Paula Diedrich
Communion Assts 4	
Greeters 2	
Projection Technician 1	Inga Banitt

Saturday, October 31 – 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1	
Communion Asst 1	Barb Salmela

Quilting

If you would like to work with Messiah's quilting group, please contact the office.

Devotions Link

www.prayfaithfully.org is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.

Messiah's Church Staff:

Pastoral Staff:

Interim Pastor.....Steve Solberg

Support Staff:

Parish AdministratorJennifer Dodge

Administrative AssistantKathy Godec

Parish AccountantMike Hill

Financial Secretary.....Anne Rydholm

Interim Children's Ministry

Coordinator.....Emma

Olechnowicz

Music Staff:

Music/Choir Director.....Sara Parks

Organist/Pianist.....Kathy Strazzinski

Jon Banitt

Bell Choir Director.....Judy Quirk

Pianist.....Jacob Schmeltzer

Daniel Cipriano

Messiah Lutheran Church

305 W. Magnetic Street

Marquette, MI 49855

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